

Message Text

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ACTION MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PER-01 ABF-01 SP-02 OMB-01 NSC-05

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1922

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AODE, ETRD, HK

SUBJ: MODE - TREASURY/CUSTOMS PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN INSPECTOR
POSITION AT HONG KONG

REF: STATE 217465

1. I AGREE THAT CURRENT WORKLOAD OF CUSTOMS OFFICE HERE IS GREATER THAN WHAT TWO OFFICERS SHOULD BE ASKED TO CARRY. AT THE SAME TIME, INCREASED WORKLOAD IS NOT A RESULT OF FACTORS WHOLLY BEYOND HUMAN CONTROL.

2. ADVICE ON CUSTOMS MATTERS, WHICH OCCUPIES 50 PERCENT OF CUSTOMS OFFICERS' TIME, IS A SERVICE THE DEMAND FOR WHICH TENDS TO GROW WITH THE SUPPLY OF OFFICERS. IN THE ABSENCE OF A DECISION TO HOLD THE LEVEL OF THIS SERVICE TO THE MANHOURS AVAILABLE, ADDING ONE MORE OFFICER WOULD PROVE ONLY A TEMPORARY SOLUTION.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, CASELOAD APPEARS TO BE MATTER OVER WHICH WASHINGTON COULD EXERCISE CONTROL. MANY CASES WHICH OFFICERS HERE ARE REQUIRED TO INVESTIGATE OR DECIDE COULD BE HANDLED IN WASHINGTON WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE FIELD. WASHINGTON COULD ALSO ESTABLISH OR REVIEW ANY EXISTING CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING WHICH CASES ARE WORTH OPENING AND WHICH ARE OF SUCH LOW PRIORITY OR MARGINAL VALUE AS TO BE NOT WORTH THE OFFICE'S TIME.

4. IF WASHINGTON IS PREPARED TO CONTROL THE WORKLOAD TO WHAT TWO
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OFFICERS CAN HANDLE, BELIEVE CURRENT BACKLOG COULD BE ELIMINATED

BY ASSIGNMENT OF TDY OFFICER. IF ON THE OTHER HAND DECISION IS TO SET WORKLOAD AT LEVEL REQUIRING ADDITIONAL OFFICER ON PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT, I HAVE NO BASIS FOR OBJECTING SINCE SUCH AN ASSIGNMENT WOULD CAUSE NO POLITICAL OR IMAGE PROBLEMS HERE AND WOULD IMPACT ONLY marginally ON OUR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT CAPABILITIES. I WISH TO GO ON RECORD, HOWEVER, THAT SHOULD WASHINGTON AT SOME POINT SEEK TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THIS POST, I WOULD CONSIDER THIS NEW CUSTOMS SLOT A PRIME CANDIDATE FOR ELIMINATION AND CUSTOMS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THIS.

5. MAJOR FACTOR WHICH CAUSES ME NOT TO COME DOWN UNEQUIVOCALLY AGAINST PROPOSED INCREASE IS THAT CUSTOMS OFFICE HERE HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL TO POST'S NARCOTICS PROGRAM AND I WANT TO BE SURE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THIS SUPPORT AS WELL AS MEET THEIR OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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